

The Academy, March 11, 1899.

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Spring Announcements Supplement.

SATURDAY: MARCH 11, 1899.

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A Dialogue on New Books.

WHAT is the most noticeable thing about the spring announcements?

The most noticeable thing is the amount of good reading that we shall soon be able to buy for sixpence. Tennyson's poems, for instance—whoever heard of Tennyson for sixpence?

How much Tennyson?

"Maud," at any rate, and "Enoch Arden," and most of the earlier poems. And, in addition to reprints, there are to be new sixpenny novels too, as full of matter as the ordinary six-shilling affair. The first is to be by Mr. Hornung.

And other novels?

Well, it is not a strong season for novels. The principal books that are promised are history, travel, and biography. Biography is very strong.

Tell me some of the books.

The *Life and Letters of Sir John Millais*, by his son; the *Letters of Benjamin Jowett*; another volume of the *Memoirs of the Verney Family*; another volume of *Byron's Letters*; the *Life of George Borrow*.

At last?

Yes; it is really coming. We shall have it at once, "before the swallow dares."

Go on.

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Two?

Yes; for years and years Danton—Carlyle's Titan of the Revolution—has been passed over, and then in one month two *Lives* are sent forth.

Who write them?

One is by Mr. A. H. Beesly; the other by Mr. Belloc.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc?

Yes.

Will they put "By the author of *The Bad Child's Book of Beasts*" on the Danton's title-page?

No. Mr. Belloc has two distinctly pronounced sides. His *Life of Danton* represents the serious one. History is fairly strong, too. Among the new history books will be one on Alfred the Great, in connexion with the millenary.

I see that Dr. Conan Doyle votes for the deposition of St. George and the substitution of Alfred as our patron saint.

It is not likely to happen. In pictorial qualities the fight with the dragon is so infinitely superior to the accident with the cakes. Other history books are a new volume of Dr. Hodgkin's *Invaders of Italy*; a new volume of Prof. Flinders Petrie's *History of Egypt*; *Oliver Cromwell and the Rule of the Puritans*, by C. Firth; *A Literary History of Ireland*, by Dr. Douglas Hyde; *Shakespeare in France*, by M. Jusserand; *A History of the Colonisation of Africa by Alien Races*, by Sir H. H. Johnston; *The*

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In verse?

Yes. Mr. Brimley Johnson has collected ballads and songs to cover a large number of important events.

What is there in the way of poetry?

Very little. The most important is Mr. W. B. Yeats's new volume, *The Wind Among the Reeds*. Then we are to have a complete edition of R. S. Hawker. And there are also Mr. Barry Pain's *Tompkins Verses*.

And fiction?

Another Crockett.

So I suppose.

A new H. G. Wells: *When the Sleeper Wakes*.

That's more exciting.

A new Howells. Some short stories by the author of *Liza of Lambeth*, called *Daisy*. A new book by Mr. E. H. Cooper. A study of a female dipsomaniac by Mrs. Atherton.

That's rather cheerful!

Yes, novelists can be cheerful when they like. Two studies of low life are promised in *No. 5, John Street*, by the author of *The Island*, and in *Hooligan Nights*. Dr. Conan Doyle has a new novel, *A Dust*; and his brother-in-law, Mr. Hornung, has a new novel, *The Amateur Cracksmen*.

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"The Little Library" is a rival to the "Temple Classics," I suppose?

Yes, but the "Temple Classics" show no sign of abated vigour. *De Quincey*, *Epictetus*, Carlyle's *Past and Present*, Wordsworth's *Sonnets*, are all to be expected soon.

And what of travel?

Travel is not very strong. Mrs. Bishop's *Yangtze Valley*; Mr. Vivian's *Tunisia and the Modern Barbary Pirates*; Mr. T. A. Cook's *Rouen*; Mr. Stephen Gwynn's *Highways and Byways of Donegal, Derry, and Antrim*; and Miss Hannah Lynch's *Toledo*.

And now tell me about miscellaneous books. They are so often the best.

Not this spring, I think. But there are some interesting ones. *The Etchingham Letters*, from Cornhill, is promised, and Mr. Fuller-Maitland has told the story of his musical development. Mr. Dobson has a new volume of essays, *A Paladin of Philanthropy*. There is a comprehensive manual of *Athletics*, by a variety of experts; and another on golf—*The Book of Golf and Golfers*—edited by Mr. Horace Hutchinson. A new translation from the Swedish of Selma Lagerlöf, *The Miracles of Anti-Christ*, is about to appear. Several gardening books are in preparation, and the best edition of White's *Selborne* that has yet appeared is coming out in monthly parts.

And all these belong to the spring?

Yes.

And will more follow in the summer?

Many more.

But what about Nature?

O, Nature always wins in the end.

The Spring Publishing Season.

New Books and Announcements.

THE lists that follow comprise the principal new books and new editions belonging to the spring of 1899. It has been said that if anything is more interesting than books themselves it is their titles. In the conviction that this is true, we have permitted these titles to take possession of twelve columns of the ACADEMY.

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A 'BUS DRIVER.

Arstin' you a question, sir, 'oo is this Mr. Kilping?

A TOBACCONIST.

Yes, sir, he's one of the greatest. All the same, I can't say that I ever heard of Mr. Kipling till he had pneumonia.

A FRUITERER.

Mr. Kipling! Aye, aye; it's nice weather for sick folks. He's an American, isn't he, sir?

A MAN SERVANT.

A great loss, sir, I'm sure. And so sudden, they tell me. No, I don't read the papers much; I only know what they tell me. And his secretary in the next room, they tell me.

A CABMAN.

"Like to see the *Star*?" I said as I alighted. "Kipling's all right." The cabman's face glowed with interest as he leaned down for the crumpled paper. "I don't seem to know the party," he said.

A POLISH WAITER.

Yes, ver' glad Mister Keeping better. O yes, I haf read some of dem—yes, yes, they ver' good—pot Sienkiewicz, he is ze man. Haf you read him?—no?—ach! He is ze man.

A CHARWOMAN.

No, sir, I never read his books; a bit o' *Lloyd's* on a Sunday afternoon's all I seems to get time for. Suppose he's a grand writer. I asked my brother had he read any of his pieces—said he had.

A BARBER.

Yessir; papers seem to think he'll get over it. No, sir; can't say I'm a great book reader. Happen to know when the organ-grinder's case comes on, sir?—there's a romance, sir—I hope *that* ain't goin' to drop.

A CHEESEMONGER.

Quite the sensation, sir; wonder if they'd make the same fuss if I had the pnemonia—ha! ha!

A CLUB PORTER.

Sing'ler how pore old Lord 'Erschell—skatin'—pore old man—fell and hurt hisself—and just before he expired telegraphed to this young writin' feller—what's his name?—Kipling?

A SOLDIER.

No; I hardly think they read his books, but they ought to. Not the privates, at least. Maybe in the sergeants' mess and among the orf'cers. You see, a young soldier hasn't the time. It's only seven years, and he's a lot to do, and he likes goin' about London. I dessay on foreign stations they read his books; but not here, unless it's a song, and then, maybe, they wouldn't ever arsk who wrote it. Yes, I've read a bit. Mulvaney?—no, not that. I know I read something once. Glad he's getting on? Aye, you may believe that, sir. My only fear is—when he knows about his little gel.

A POLICEMAN.

It was at the Islington Horse Show. I sidled up to the policeman who was guarding the emergency exit to the ring. "They've been making a great fuss over this Rudyard Kipling. Have you read any of his stories?" "Oh, yes! I've read them." "Do you suppose he invented them, or are they—" "All true," he broke in. "I was in the Navy myself. Better job than this." Just then there was a commotion in the ring, as a gentleman entered from beneath the Royal box. "That's the Duke of Edinburgh," he said; "see him?" I suggested that he looked more like the Duke of York. "Well, I knew the Duke of Edinburgh in the Navy. Talk about a stickler. Why, at court-martial he couldn't sentence a man out of his own 'ed, like the other captains. He had to do it from books."

"And Mr. Kipling's books are read in the Navy?" I asked. "Oh, yes! they read him in the Navy. When I was in the Navy the Duke of Edinburgh would 'ave it that our flannel shirts must look white on parade. You know what it means to keep flannel white after washing in salt water. Well, do you know what we did? We pinned on a flannel dicky. Larf, why—" "So you really think Mr. Kipling's stories are not invented?" I interposed. The light of reminiscence died from his eyes. "Oh, no! all true," he said. "The public reads him. All true."

Froude to Thoreau.

A Still-Born Book.

Some Unpublished Letters of Henry D. and Sophia E. Thoreau: a Chapter in the History of a Still-Born Book is the title of a handsomely-printed volume of which a small edition (150 copies) has just been issued by the Marion Press, Jamaica, Queensborough, New York, under the editorship of Dr. Samuel A. Jones, who by his bibliography and other services has earned the gratitude of Thoreau students. The "still-born book" is the first edition of the now famous *Week on the Concord River*, the bulk of which, some 700 copies, were returned by the publisher as unsaleable, and were stacked by Thoreau in

the attic of his father's house at Concord, as described by him in a characteristic passage: "I have now a library of nearly nine hundred volumes, over seven hundred of which I wrote myself." A copy of this edition, as Dr. Jones tells us, "now finds warm welcome to the selectest of private libraries at eighteen dollars."

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Dr. Jones's volume is mainly of the esoteric order, and appeals rather to the special class of Thoreau students than to the general reader; it contains, however, one hitherto unpublished letter from Froude to Thoreau which is of wider interest. It appears that Thoreau, who was known to Froude through Emerson, had sent him a copy of the *Week*, in acknowledgment of which the author of *The Nemesis of Faith*, then lately published, replied as follows:

Manchester, September 3, 1849.

DEAR MR. THOREAU,—I have long intended to write to you, to thank you for that noble expression of yourself you were good enough to send me. I know not why I have not done so, except from a foolish sense that I should not write until I had thought of something to say that it should be worth your while to read. What can I say to you except express the honour and the love I feel for you—an honour and a love which Emerson taught me long ago to feel, but which I feel now "not on account of his word, but because I myself have read and know you."

When I think of what you are—of what you have done as well as what you have written—I have the right to tell you that there is no man living upon this earth at present whose friendship or whose notice I value more than yours.

What are these words! Yet I wished to say something—and I must use words, though they serve but seldom in these days for much but lies.

In your book and in one other from your side of the Atlantic, *Margaret*, I see hope for the coming world; all else which I have found true in any of our thinkers (or even yours) is their flat denial of what is false in the modern popular jargon; but for their positive affirming side they do but fling us back upon our own human nature to hold on by that with our own strength. A few men here and there do this, as the later Romans did; but mankind cannot, and I have gone near to despair. I am growing not to despair, and I thank you for a helping hand.

Well, I must see you some time or other. It is not such a great matter with these steam bridges. I wish to shake hands with you and look a brave man in the face. In the meantime I will but congratulate you on the age in which your work is cast: the world has never seen one more pregnant. God bless you!—Your friend (if you will let him call you so),

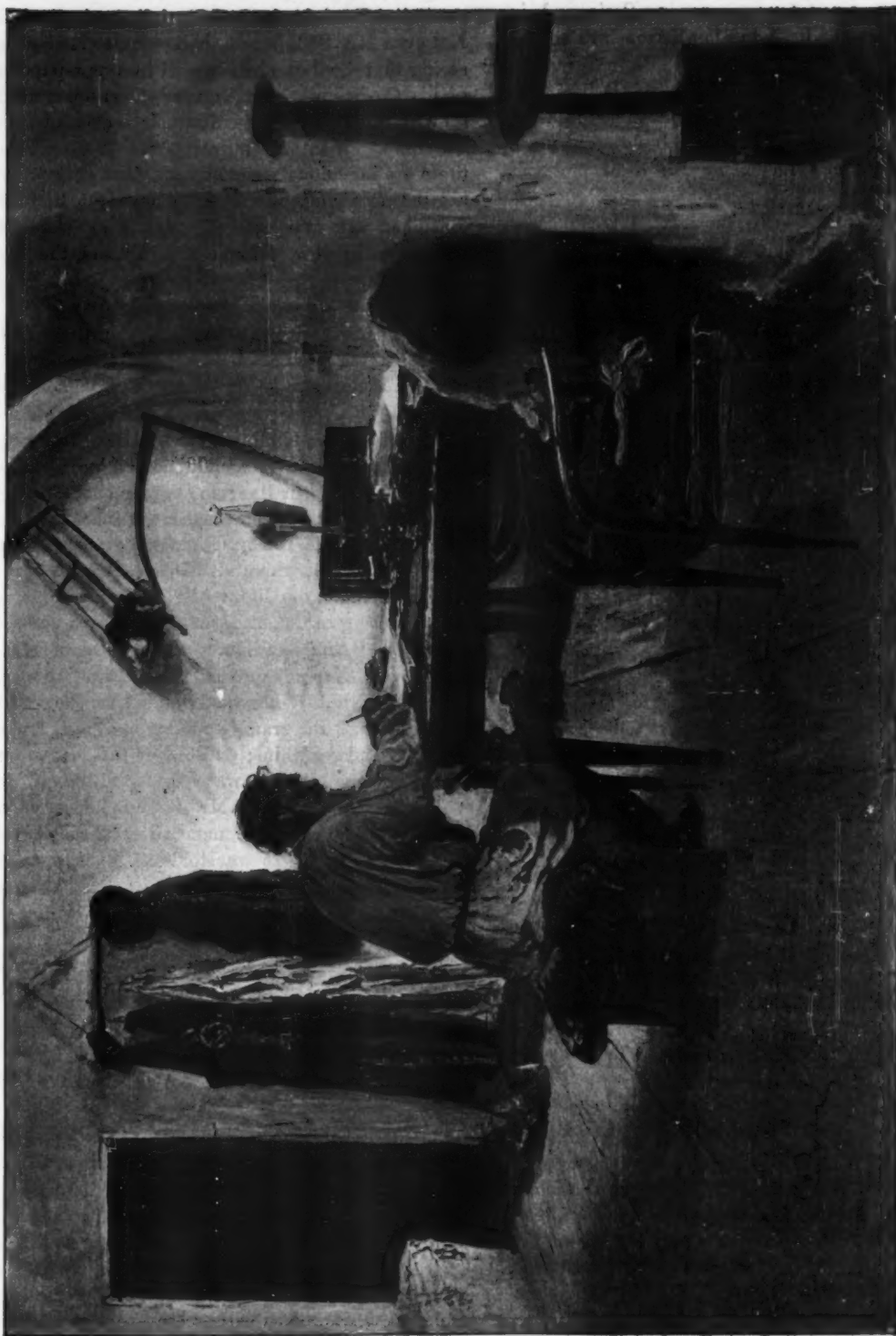
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Other interesting matter is to be found in the book—an entertaining glimpse, for example, of the whimsical Ellery Channing, easily recognised under the mask of "X. Y. Z." The true and tender nature of Sophia Thoreau is shown from her letters; and the Appendix preserves a valuable record of "Two Visits to Concord, from an Old Diary" (presumably that of Thoreau's Michigan correspondent), which gives a picture of Thoreau-land as seen, after the master's death, by one of the earliest of its pilgrims. Of Thoreau's literary circle there will soon remain but a memory. Both Harrison Blake and Daniel Ricketson—the "Mr. B." and "Mr. D. R." of the *Letters*—have recently died, and Ellery Channing, still living in Concord at an advanced age, is now the sole survivor of Thoreau's compeers.

HENRY S. SALT.

Tolstoi's New Book.

SOME very interesting particulars concerning Tolstoi's new novel are supplied to us by Mr. Walter Scott. The title is *Resurrection*, and the book will appear weekly and simultaneously in Russia and other European countries, beginning on March 25 and ending probably about September 2. In America it will appear monthly, beginning April 1, and the arrangements there are such as to prevent serial publication in that continent prejudicing publication elsewhere. About 100,000 words long, the novel will consist of about eighty chapters. Each weekly part will therefore consist of three or four chapters. It may be mentioned that in Russia, although the version published there will be mutilated by the censors and cut down by at least one-third of the length of the work, the serial rights have fetched about £1,300. In America the serial rights of the authorised English version have been sold for 5,000 dollars, and the opportunity of publishing immediately on completion of serial, but without copyright, has realised 4,100 dollars. In France about £500 is being paid for serial rights. So much for other countries. In England, however, a novel plan is to be adopted. No copyright is to be taken out, but all papers that care to print the story serially have the opportunity of doing so by payment to Mr. Walter Scott of the sum of £20. Then, on the day of completion of the serial publications, *Resurrection* will be issued in book form in the only authorised edition. In this edition will appear the illustrations, made by Prof. Pasternak, of Moscow, after consultation with the author. Newspapers wishing for these illustrations can have them by an extra payment. All the profits on the novel are, by the author's wish, to go to assist in the emigration to Canada, and colonisation there, of the Dukhoborts, the Russian sect who, for the crime of refusing to bear arms, have been cruelly prosecuted, but are now being permitted to leave Russia. *Resurrection*, we are told, besides presenting a vivid picture of contemporary Russian life, is a work of great dramatic power and interest, touching incidentally on several of the most pressing latter-day problems, and, so far as literary and artistic treatment is concerned, is likely to enhance even the fame which *Anna Karénina* brought to the author.



Tolstoi at Home.

Things Seen.

Capitulation.

ROBERT had been away four years in Paris and in London. When he came back to Dumbartonshire he was changed—to grandmother most of all.

But she took no notice, for she had loved Robert best of all from that first day when his Republican grandfather left the little crop-headed orphan boy to be brought up in his Scotch grandmother's home, by his dead mother's wish.

She listened and waited—till one day. The wind was howling round the grey old house. The weather had been wretched for a week, and Robert was bored and something sharp-edged as to temper. He sat by the fire discoursing of what were, to us, new philosophies. He touched on the iniquity of existing marriage laws and the inartistic exigencies of the Decalogue generally, explaining that although self-development is confessedly but a succession of suicides, it is the only form of evolution to be sought after and worked out, regardless of everything else.

Pretty Elspeth gazed and wondered; grave Margit shook her head; Geordie, his huge hand covering his mouth, smiled with his eyes at what he would call "Robert's French havers." Only grandmother spoke: from time to time exclaiming, "Indeed! is that the case? Dear me, dear me!" in a voice that might have been ironical but for the expression of candid innocence on her face.

Presently he began to speak of "existing creeds" and of their "outworn" character. For a brief space no one interrupted him.

Suddenly grandmother leant forward in her chair. "Laddie!" she thundered, "if I thocht ye believed one half o' what ye have been saying this day, I'd skelp ye till ye couldna' sit."

Robert sprang up and made as though to leave the room: half-way to the door he paused, and turning, went and knelt down by grandmother's chair. He took her hand, beautiful still in spite of her eighty years, and kissed it, saying gently, "You would be quite justified."

She took hold of his chin and turned up his face towards her, and they looked into each other's eyes.

"Puir laddie," she whispered, and he laid his head down on her knee.

Emptiness.

SHE was a young and thin and weary mother. Her child lay heavily on her lap as the omnibus rumbled along. Suddenly the infant awoke and cried, and she put the tube of the feeding bottle in its mouth. For a moment there was a grateful peace, but as suddenly as it came it went in a yell of anger and disappointment. The mother again proffered the time-honoured consolation, and for a second or two there was a gurgling calm, only, however, to be broken by a more energetic explosion than before. The mother repeated the operation, but with increasingly indignant manifestations till she discovered that the feeding tube had parted from the bottle! The child had been having its first taste of the emptiness of life.

Memoirs of the Moment.

Books will no doubt be written some day or other on the religion of Kipling, as books have been written already on the religion of Shakespeare, of Browning, of Tennyson. Not even Mr. Swinburne shall escape creed-classification, seeing that he has already read in a newspaper a defence of his Christianity—which need mean no more than that its writer admires Mr. Swinburne's verse and is himself a Christian. Whatever may be said of Mr. Kipling—and there are ingenious people arguing the point of Paganism *versus* Christianity already—we have the undoubted fact that he had two grandfathers who were Methodist ministers, the Rev. Joseph Kipling and the Rev. G. B. Macdonald.

A GREAT authority once said that the atmosphere of the House of Lords suggested quotations from *Paradise Lost*, and the atmosphere of the House of Commons quotations from *Childe Harold*. But now neither Milton nor Byron is quoted—only Kipling. There is a tradition among politicians that poetry should not be quoted, except, perhaps, it be a Latin line; to care for contemporary poetry has always been to incur a sneer against your practicality. But Kipling has removed the reproach; and even the Viceroy of India, whom all his friends have been warning against being "too literary" in his allusions, could not resist quoting in Calcutta the other day a verse from the pen of the "Anglo-Indian." The illness of Mr. Kipling, by the way, has not only shown how full the world is of his readers, but it has vastly added to the number. By the Emperor's telegram Germany has been made alert to translate and read him; and one of the last orders for his *Barrack Room Ballads* was sent to England from—the Vatican. "But who is Mr. Kipling?" asked the Pope one morning when their names were headed together in a French paper. He was told by Monsignor Merry del Val, himself half an Englishman; and Thomas Atkins makes in consequence his peaceful and literary entry into the palace of the Vatican.

THE Count of Turin has made a new friend in an Englishman, Sir Henry Tichborne, once the little boy for whom the great case against the Claimant was fought. The Count and Sir Henry are shooting together in India.

THE mutability of human fortunes is nowhere written plainer than on the great houses of London, to which were proudly given the names of their founders or of families that were their former occupants. "We were" is the unseen writing upon these once boastful walls. Hardly one such house is now inhabited according to its label—not Bute House, not Marlborough House (though the present Duke of Marlborough will no doubt try to restore it to his family when the Prince of Wales moves to Buckingham Palace); not Chesterfield House, now Lord Burton's; not Cambridge House, which the present Duke of Cambridge, whose father lived in it, can still frequent, but only as a clubman; not Lansdowne House till lately. These titles have become confusing, yet to change them with each fresh owner would be to invite attention to transfers of wealth,

or other vicissitudes, in succeeding generations. Dudley House—to name another—must be Dudley House still, not Robinson House, though Lord Dudley lives elsewhere in London, and long ago sold his family mansion to Mr. Robinson, who, by the way, is just returning thither with his wife after an absence of two years.

MR. ZANGWILL, who reached Liverpool last Saturday morning, and is now in his native London, has much to say, and will publicly say some of it, on his visit to the United States. Mr. Zangwill finds it difficult to tear himself away from ports, especially from sea-ports. He loves shipping, with which he has made close acquaintance during long residence at Plymouth and Bristol; and he was almost reluctant to leave the *Campania* the other day, even after a rather troublous crossing.

MR. JOHN LANE, who leaves London to-day for the United States, will shortly return to occupy a house he has bought in Kensington Gardens-terrace.

THE Duchess of Sutherland has completed a novel which her friends pronounce to be "socialistic."

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON may very probably appear as Morrice Buckler in the play Mr. Mason is making (with Mr. Comyns Carr's assistance) from his Anglo-Indian story. But the appearance of Mr. Robertson as Sir Willoughby Patterne has been quite indefinitely postponed.

THE Marquis of Ripon has become President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. That announcement does not mean much to the casual reader; but it may make a considerable difference in the fortunes of persons whose only fortunes are ill ones. The Society, named after the French "Apostle of the Poor," consists of members who visit the poor and the sick in their own homes, administering money relief as well as kind words. The "brothers" are ordinary laymen, and their district visiting and their "conference meetings" are demands on the spare time which very busy men could hardly meet, except that very busy men have the knack of finding time for everything. Lord Ripon, when out of office at any rate, feels that he can undertake the acting duties of a "Brother of St. Vincent de Paul," and he has agreed also to be the President of the Society for all England. Branches exist already in various towns; but the new impulse brought by the leadership of Lord Ripon is counted upon to increase immensely the number of volunteers for this service of the poor, and also the amount of money placed in their hands for distribution.

A Fable.

A MUSICIAN died, and his sleeping soul waited at the Gate. Then said the Angel: "Has this man sinned?"

"Yes," answered the voices of the neighbours; "he has played his own works all day."

"What shall be his punishment?" asked the Angel.

"Let him hear those works for ever," cried the voices.

So the soul was awakened in Hell by the chanting of its own music.

"This must be Heaven," it said.

Correspondence.

Green's "Short History."

SIR,—In common with many of your readers, I was extremely pleased with the instructive and suggestive letter of Mr. J. J. Poynter on Green's *Short History* which appeared in your issue for February 18, and I shall be still further obliged if he, or some other of your readers, can give me any information as to what seems to me to be a strange mistake later on in Green's *Short History*.

In the description of the death of Charles II., at the bottom of page 648 (of the 1875 edition), are the words: "The bishops around his bed fell on their knees, and implored his blessing, and Charles with outstretched hands solemnly gave it to them." I believe there were only two bishops present at all during his illness, namely, Sancroft (Archbishop) and Ken. Neither of them could do anything with him. He would not listen to their exhortations, and finally they were dismissed and Father Huddleston admitted, from whom the King received the last Sacraments.

Macaulay writes: "The King seemed much relieved by what had passed. His natural children were brought to his bedside, the Dukes of Grafton, &c.—Charles blessed them all," &c.

Burnet, in his History of his own times, says, "Bishop Ken was censured for a piece of indecency. He presented the Duke of Richmond, Lady Portsmouth's son, to be blessed by the King. Upon this some that were in the room cried out the King was their common father. And upon that all kneeled down for his blessing, which he gave them."

Who were these kneeling persons—Bishops? or is it another word beginning with B? Can Green have read shorthand notes and misread?—I am, &c.,

Hampden House, N.W.

T. H. G.

"Time's Revenges."

SIR,—A short time ago the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred by St. Andrew's University on Mrs. Henry Fawcett. All eyes were strained to attention, and to one onlooker at least the climax of an interesting ceremony was reached when the cap that had once been John Knox's rested for a moment in academic benediction on the brow of this distinguished lady, so long the champion of the political rights of her sex—one might almost say, the uncrowned queen of England's revolted daughters. "Women are weak, frail, impatient, feeble, foolish. God has denied to them wisdom to consider or providence to foresee what is profitable for the commonwealth," said the great Reformer; and in no measured language he condemned "the monstiferous empire of women," and asserted what Stevenson has called "his sense of unspeakable masculine authority." Truly Fate has not dealt over kindly with the shade of the churlish author of the *First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*.—I am, &c.,

Manchester: March 5, 1899.

E. G.-B.

Our Literary Competitions.

Result of No. 22.

"A MIDDLE-AGED, unmarried lady, who attends University Extension lectures, subscribes to Mudie's, and lives in a London suburb with a parrot, a Pomeranian dog, and two servants, keeps on a little shelf beside the fireplace her dozen permanent favourite books. What are they?" This was the question we asked last week. A careful collation of the numerous lists sent in this week shows that the twelve books which our imaginary maiden lady ought to like best are as follows:

Tennyson.
Shakespeare.
Robert Browning, selections.
Sesame and Lilies.
The Imitation of Christ.
The Bible.
Pride and Prejudice.
The Mill on the Floss.
Lamb's *Essays*.
Macaulay's *Essays*.
Mrs. Browning, selections.
Sartor Resartus.

Two competitors—Miss Alice Thompson, 22, Grosvenor-crescent, Scarborough, and Mr. A. H. Meiklejohn, 4, Leamington-avenue, West Didabury, Manchester—named each seven out of the twelve, and, therefore, one guinea has been divided between them.

The remaining books (Browning having been given as two) on Miss Thompson's list were:

Dante's *Divine Comedy*,
Emerson's *Essays*,
Ruskin's *Frontes Agrestes*,
Carlyle's *Heroes*;

and on Mr. Meiklejohn's:

Boswell's *Johnson*,
Carlyle's *French Revolution*,
Green's *Short History*,
Pendennis,
Adam Bede.

Against the voice of the majority there is, of course, no appeal; but several of the lists sent in seem to us to represent the probable tastes of the lady more nearly than the books forming the ideal dozen. Palgrave's *Golden Treasury*, Charles Kingsley's *Life*, *The Christian Year*, and *Middlemarch* may be mentioned as books which we and certain competitors would expect to find on that little shelf.

Replies received also from J. B. N., York; A. M. C., Bristol; E. C. W., Oxford; E. R., Coldharbour; F. E. W., Meltham; T. M., Shrivensham; M. A., Sale; A. M. F., Crediton; W. D., Andover; Mrs. R. G., Highgate; L. F. M., London; L. K., Highgate; M. J. S., Bournemouth; H. B. F., Forest Hill; W. F. K., Dublin; M. L. H., Ambleside; L. E. A., Sheffield; T. C., Buxton; R. G. W., Richmond; H. J. W., Tonbridge; T. L. H., Dolgelly; K. C. W., Wrexham; E. H., New Romney; H. G. H., Ruesswar; A. E. L., Stafford; S. B., Great Malvern; Miss P., Wilton; F. W., Sydenham; Mrs. H. H., Shoreham; Miss P., Shotley Bridge; D. S., London; Miss J., London; H. P. B., Glasgow; G. E. M., London; A. H. C., Lee; G. R., Aberdeen; J. S., Elgin; M. A. W., Watford; W. S. R., Moffat; H. T. F., Cambridge; E. E. M., Bedford Park; H. L., Worcester; R. H., Aston Manor; L. M. S., Weston; E. M. H., Tonbridge; L. C. J., Edinburgh.

Competition No. 23.

We print this week, in the middle of the issue, several columns of publishers' announcements. We ask competitors to select from those columns the twelve best books. A comparison of all answers sent in will be made, and a prize of one guinea awarded to the competitor whose list agrees in largest proportion with the general sense.

Answers, addressed "Literary Competition, The ACADEMY, 43,

Chancery-lane, W.C.," must reach us not later than the first post of Tuesday, March 14. Each answer must be accompanied by the coupon to be found at the foot of the first column of p. 312, or it cannot enter into competition. We wish to impress on competitors that the task of examining replies is much facilitated when one side only of the paper is written upon. It is also important that names and addresses should always be given. We cannot consider anonymous answers.

The "Academy" Bureau.

THE WISDOM OF PLOTINUS.

BY C. J. W.

C. J. W. has provided us with pleasant entertainment for an hour. He set to himself the task of expounding Neoplatonism, and we think he has accomplished it very well. As will be seen from the excerpt which will follow, he writes lucidly, as a scholar should: "Plotinus defines Love as the desire to be united with a beautiful object, and thereby to produce or to create beauty. Thus Nature herself—or the soul of the universe, that soul of which Nature is the express manifestation—creates in virtue of the contemplation (spiritual union with) celestial or intelligible beauty. Those human beings who, loving beauty in the sensible world, have not the reminiscence or intuition of intellectual or ideal beauty, still owe their love of the former to the fact that it is an image of the latter. Love is always the result of an affinity, conscious or otherwise, between the soul of the lover and the object of his passion. Our desire to produce is the direct outcome of the instinctive craving for immortality, for the essence which is immortal is none other than Beauty itself. Those (and those only) who love beautiful bodies without the craving to be united with them love them for their ideal beauty alone. From the attention with which the celestial soul applies itself to contemplate the Divine Life which is its object, the supreme Love is born—an eye full of the object which it beholds, a vision made one with the image which it forms. Below the celestial soul exists Nature—the soul of the world as such—and of its contemplation and desire the love which is its eye, and which presides over earthly marriages, is born." Although a trifle pragmatical, that is not bad philosophy; but it has been expounded by such Englishmen as Mr. Myers and Mr. William Knight in a style more modern. Plotinus is a hard nut to crack. C. J. W. cracks him as well, we think, as he could be cracked; but we are not sure that the cracking would have a sufficient audience.

WITH WEIGHTED WINGS.

BY F. J. T.

We are unhappy about this book. Now and then we come upon an original thought expressed with elegance. For example, the school-boy Dacombe, when he had persuaded the bully to fight him, "tried not to recognise the measure of ambition which had helped so materially to make the duty obvious—that ambition which is the devil's share in most noble deeds, and is the unsuspected spur which goads wavering hearts to acts of chivalry." The idea is well expressed, but the desert remains predominant. F. J. T.'s story is sensational and incredible. Published as a book, for the general reader of novels, it would do no good at all.

UNEXPECTATIONS.

BY W. W. W.

We do not like to seem cruel; but it is necessary to say that this novel has almost no merit whatsoever. We hope that the author is a very young man. If he is, he need not despair. He has energy in abundance, and experience may give him insight. In order that he may perceive the main error of his way, let us merely mention, in friendliness, that the hero of "Unexpectedness," whom we are expected to admire, is a miracle of self-satisfied ignorance.

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